

and Trade Committee, and the Korea-Hong Kong Business Roundtable.

In its efforts to promote freer trade, not only between the United States and South Korea, but around the world, KITA organizes various functions and events to enhance mutual understanding on trade issues, seeking to resolve private-sector trade disputes through dialogue. It also works together with its overseas counterparts and international economic organizations to provide member firms with opportunities to interact fully with the international community.

Moreover, KITA places special emphasis on developing and maintaining cooperative relationships with overseas trade promotion organizations as well as major international organizations to facilitate trade and investment on a reciprocal basis. These cooperation activities include trade information exchange, organizing trade promotional events, joint research, and provision of facilities, such as the new office building on L Street in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, as January 13, 2006, will be the first time we celebrate Korean-American Day, as designated by the vote of this Congress, I think it is appropriate that we recognize the mutual benefits of trade between our country and South Korea, which has been a partner of ours in so many endeavors over the years, from fighting side-by-side with our Armed Forces to contributing \$30 million in assistance to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Barely half a century ago, South Korea was an impoverished casualty of imperialism and war; it has now grown to be the 13th-largest trading nation in the world. Korea is also the 7th-largest trading partner of the United States, with over \$70 billion in business between our countries each year. Credit for such remarkable development belongs in large part to the efforts of the Korea International Trade Association.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to extend their good wishes and welcome to the Korea International Trade Association as it opens its new offices in Washington, DC.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2863,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this conference report—and the breathtaking abuse of power it represents.

The purpose of a Defense Appropriations bill is to fund the fighting forces of the United States and to provide our troops with the support and equipment they need. At no time is that obligation more solemn than when our soldiers are at risk in places like Iraq and Afghanistan.

That is why it is so inexcusable for this congressional leadership to put our troops in jeopardy by playing politics with this bill.

Republicans and Democrats should unite behind a clean, bipartisan conference report that supports our soldiers and provides for a robust national defense. Instead, this legislation arrives on the floor packed with highly divisive, completely extraneous, last minute

giveaways to special interests—giveaways the Republican leadership knows perfectly well could never survive the scrutiny of the ordinary legislative process.

In that regard, I am particularly appalled by the inclusion of Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) drilling in this legislation. And I am not alone: Five high profile military officials—including retired General Anthony Zinni—recently implored Congress not to politicize military spending by embroiling it in the ANWR debate. Senator McCain called the ANWR insertion “disgraceful” and “disgusting”.

Mr. Speaker, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a spectacular arctic ecosystem, sustaining wildlife so diverse it is sometimes called the American Serengeti. Along with a sizable majority of Americans, I continue to believe we should not despoil this national treasure for what amounts to six months worth of gasoline ten years from now. Instead, we should move expeditiously to diversify the Nation’s fuel mix away from our reliance on foreign oil and embrace the renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies of the 21st century.

I agree with General Zinni and Senator McCain: It is the height of irresponsibility to be playing games with needed defense funds when our men and women in uniform are in harm’s way—and I am hopeful the Senate will reject inclusion of this extremely controversial and unrelated environmental provision in this military spending bill.

Moreover, I strongly object to the eleventh hour special interest liability protections added to this legislation. Once again, this kind of provision is not germane to the defense appropriations process. Furthermore, I am concerned it fails to provide adequate compensation to legitimately injured patients.

Finally, the Defense Appropriations bill is no place to be making spending decisions that have nothing to do with defense. Yet this bill contains a 1% across-the-board spending cut affecting almost every appropriations bill we have passed this year.

Mr. Speaker, earlier today I voted in favor of the defense authorization bill to provide the ongoing authority for ensuring our national defense. I am particularly pleased that the conferees on that bill saw fit to include Senator McCain’s language on the humane treatment of prisoners held in American custody.

But on this vote I will not reward the abuse of power dragging down this bill. Shame on this House for playing politics with our troops during wartime. I urge my colleagues to vote no so we can return quickly with a defense bill worthy of our military’s service and sacrifice.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2863,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the legislative process has clearly broken down and this conference report reflects that sad state of affairs. Included in this bill are a number of critical issues that have nothing to do with defense and deserve separate votes. Instead,

because they cannot or do not want to legislate, the Republican leadership has decided to play politics with our troops and use this bill as a vehicle to force through harmful provisions.

It is shameful that this conference report contains, for the first time, authority for oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Not only is this bad policy, but it has nothing to do with our Nation’s national defense. If Republicans were truly serious about reducing our dependence on foreign oil for security reasons, this bill would contain an increase in fuel efficiency standards for automobiles or a renewable portfolio standard. Instead, it contains an ideological victory for the anti-environmental leadership of this Congress that would only provide enough oil to meet our country’s needs for 6 months to a year.

This bill also contains a significant across the board budget cut, which is an unfortunate and easy way out of making smart spending choices. These cuts will have a harmful impact on everything from transportation to economic development to health care. In addition, the bill contains a damaging provision to provide immunity to drug and vaccine manufacturers.

I am disappointed that the conferees were unwilling to include fundamental provisions such as \$50 million in funding for the African Union Mission in Sudan. Without these funds, there will be no U.S. support for Darfur peacekeepers beginning in 2006. The African Union is the only security force in Darfur that has been able to provide a modicum of security. Yet without this funding it will not be able to continue its current level of around 6,000 peacekeepers for an area the size of Texas, let alone expand its operations to protect more civilians and aid workers. To allow Congress to adjourn without addressing this issue makes Republican leadership and the White House complicit in this ongoing genocide.

We face significant security and military challenges from the war in Iraq to the threat of terrorism and nuclear proliferation. Unfortunately, the spending choices in this bill do not reflect these threats and challenges. The billions we waste on outdated programs like missile defense come at the expense of the less-flashy tools we need to wage counterinsurgency warfare in places like Iraq and Afghanistan, such as armored vehicles and language training for soldiers. The security of the American people and the safety of our men and women in uniform demand better than this conference report.

BORDER PROTECTION, ANTI-
TERRORISM, AND ILLEGAL IMMI-
GRATION CONTROL ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 16, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4437) to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to strengthen enforcement of the immigration laws, to enhance border security, and for other purposes:

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in opposition to the so-called Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005, H.R. 4437. I am deeply

concerned with this legislation because it fails to seriously address our Nation's true immigration problems.

Our nation's immigration system needs a serious overhaul, but this is not it. This is a bill that has been rushed to the floor, about a week after it was introduced and after only one committee hearing that later discharged the bill on a party line vote. For an issue as important as this, we should work together, we should work towards consensus, we should take the time it takes to get it right. Instead, the Republican leadership is more interested in passing legislation that may look good on a press release, but does not solve our immigration problems and is not realistic.

If the Republican leadership was serious about securing our borders and preventing the entry of undocumented immigrants, they would fully fund the additional 10,000 border agents that we authorized when we passed the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act, Public Law 108-458, last year. The addition of these agents, which had broad bipartisan support, was a provision that would have a direct impact on securing both our Southern and Northern borders and had broad bipartisan support. However, when it comes time to fund these additional agents, Congress consistently comes up short.

This bill is strongly opposed by a broad range of organizations such as U.S. Chamber of Commerce, American Immigration Lawyers Association, American Farm Bureau, National Association of Homebuilders, Catholic Charities USA, Associated Builders and Contractors, United Auto Workers, among others. This broad coalition of organizations and interest groups understands that H.R. 4437 is not a solution to our existing immigration problem and in fact may exacerbate it.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1932,
DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. DORIS O. MATSUI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, today we begin to debate this budget package and attempt to wrap up legislative business for the year. As we do so, many members find themselves thinking about going home to be with their families.

For me, I look forward to spending time with my family and particularly my 2-year-old granddaughter Anna. As many of my colleagues already know, Anna is the driving force behind my work in Congress—I want to make sure that we create policy that is best for Anna and those in her generation who do not have a say in what we are doing here today.

Therefore, I favor reducing the deficit. Anna and her generation should not have to bear the burden of the debt this Congress has created. But Congress must reduce the deficit in a responsible manner that results in a shared sacrifice.

Unfortunately, H.R. 4241 fails to do this. It disproportionately places the burden of these cuts on a few. And it also imposes cuts on key programs including Medicaid, child support enforcement and student loans.

When I consider how these cuts will impact my constituents and their families back in Sacramento—not to mention Anna and her friends—it is clear this is not a conscientious way to cut spending.

For example, one of the critical programs cut in this bill are student loans. By doing so we are placing greater financial stress on students who are already spread thin.

Recently I met with a group of students from Sacramento State, who reiterated this point to me. Each one of them stressed the importance of student loans in financing their education.

We need to be investing in the future to compete in the global marketplace. But, by cutting these loan programs we are undercutting America's ability to compete.

This is only one example of the impact of these cold-hearted spending cuts. Spending cuts necessary to finance the tax breaks in this budget package.

We need to restore fiscal responsibility in a way that makes sense—in a way that aligns with the priorities of the American people. But the draconian cuts in this bill will not accomplish that. If you showed the American people the tradeoffs in this budget, they would tell Congress to go back to the drawing board and get it right. They would urge us to fund vital programs before cutting taxes for the fifth time in five years.

Why rush through legislation that could have tremendous repercussions on so many in this Nation? Instead, I would urge my colleagues to vote down this bill—take this holiday season to reflect on our Nation's true priorities and needs. Let's start fresh next year and figure out a way to protect future generations without impeding this government's ability to help those that need it the most.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2863,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JIM RAMSTAD

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to strongly oppose the use of our brave troops as political cover to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, ANWR, to oil drilling.

Adding the totally unrelated and highly controversial ANWR drilling provision to the Defense appropriations bill (H.R. 2863) is the most outrageous abuse of power I've seen in my 15 years as a member of Congress.

This last-ditch effort to impose oil drilling in the Arctic wilderness by converting the Defense appropriations bill into a "garbage bill" is a great insult to our troops and a flagrant abuse of the legislative process.

We should oppose this heavy-handed, backdoor tactic to impose oil drilling in one of the Nation's last great wilderness areas.

We should vote down the conference report so the conferees can remove the ANWR provision and bring back a clean Defense spending bill tonight for our approval.

I urge members to honor our troops and stand up for the environment by rejecting this conference report.

Let's not hold our brave troops hostage to Arctic oil drilling!

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2863,
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AP-
PROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN C. KILPATRICK

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, reluctantly, I rise in opposition to the bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for fiscal year 2006. Had this bill been limited to providing funding for our Nation's defense and our men and women serving our country, this bill would have my wholehearted support. But there are major sections in this bill that have nothing to do with our Nation's defense. They found their way into this bill because it is "must have" legislation. I refuse to play the game of legislative blackmail. These provisions ought to be stripped from this bill. The majority leadership profanes the military by adding these extraneous provisions. For these reasons, I must vote against this defense-funding bill.

One of the major problems with this bill is that it will make an \$8 billion across the board cut in all 2006 discretionary spending, excluding veterans. I strongly support our veterans but the \$8 billion in cuts include special education, "No Child Left Behind," homeland security, defense spending, low-income heating assistance, job and employment assistance, the Women, Infant, and Children Program, WIC, and many other programs.

The sections authorizing oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, ANWR, should not be in this defense-spending bill. H.R. 2863 also exempts drug companies from liability. Drug company language does not belong in this bill. Drug companies should be liable when their products cause physical harm or death to consumers. I am also opposed to this bill because I do not think that the Republican leadership should use our troops to accomplish political goals that are unpopular with Americans. For these reasons I must vote against this defense bill.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1932,
DEFICIT REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Sunday, December 18, 2005

Ms. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, this administration, in concert with this Congress under this leadership, has given us five years of record debt and deficits. It seems that with each new month comes a new dubious record—just last week we learned that the trade deficit for October hit another all-time high.

This reckless fiscal policy has come on the heels of the thriving economy of the 1990s, when we showed that government can be fiscally disciplined and compassionate to our neighbors most in need at the same time.

That time and that economic philosophy is a distant memory, having given way to misguided priorities. Now, instead of fundamentally changing the economic approach that